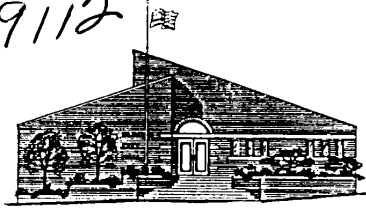


209112



City of Eldora

1442 Washington Street
Eldora, Iowa 50627 (641) 939-2393

October 6, 2003

Vernon A. Williams, Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
1925 "K" Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

VIA FAX: 202-565-9002



BEFORE THE SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

RE: Union Pacific Railroad Abandonment, Hardin County Iowa;
Docket # AB-33 (Sub-No. 168X) – Eldora Junction Line in Eldora, Iowa

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings

OCT 14 2003

Motion to Extend the Time Period for Negotiation of an
Interim Trail Use/Railbanking Agreement

Part of
Public Record

The City of Eldora and the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation (INHF) hereby request the Surface Transportation Board (STB or Board) to extend the time period for negotiation of a mutually acceptable interim trail use/railbanking agreement in this proceeding up and including April 8, 2004.

The Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation (INHF) has been negotiating with the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) and the City of Eldora is in the process of requesting funding assistance for acquisition of the line from state grant programs that are only available once a year. Consequently the City of Eldora and INHF will need more time in which to finalize the trail use agreement. To successfully preserve this corridor for interim trail use and railbanking under section 8(d) of the National Trails System Act, 16 U.S.C. 1247 (d), it is necessary for the negotiation period under the NITU to be extended up to and including April 8, 2004. See Policy Statement on Rails to Trails Conversions, Ex Parte No. 274 (Sub. No. 13b) (ICC served Feb. 5, 1990) (extensions of time promote the establishment of trails and railbanking consistent with the



Home of Pine Lake State Park

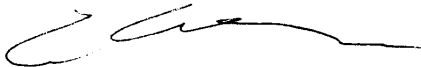
National Trails System Act).

Since the issuance of the NITU, UPRR at all points has maintained intent to transfer the line intact for interim trail use. The railroad has not sold, or offered for sale, any parcels of land that would interfere with interim trail use and railbanking of the portion of the corridor that is covered by the NITU (Eldora Junction). The line remains intact and throughout the period, the railroad has been negotiating with INHF for the transfer or sale of the corridor intact. Accordingly, the Board retains jurisdiction to extend the NITU to continue bona fide and active negotiations for interim trail use of the line.

In similar instances, this Board has reopened proceedings to permit the issuance of orders implementing section 8(d) for rail lines. The STB's authority to extend a NITU was upheld in Birt v. STB, 90 F.3d 580 (D.C. Cir. 1996). Here the parties merely seek an extension in the period for negotiation provided in a previously issued NITU. Such an extension will promote and further the purposes of the Trails Act.

For the reasons stated, the City of Eldora and the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation requests that an extension of the NITU negotiation period be granted through April 8, 2004.

Respectfully Submitted,



Eric Weinkoetz, Manager
City of Eldora

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this 6th Day of October, I have served a true and accurate copy of the foregoing motion on the following party via first-class mail, postage pre-paid and via FAX to 312-777-2065.

Mack H. Shumate, Jr.
Union Pacific Railroad
101 N. Wacker Dr. Rm 1920

Chicago, IL 60606-1718